COURT OF APPEALS DIV. #1
STATE OF WASHINGTON

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NO. 62862-3-I

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

DIVISION ONE

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Respondent,

v.

MICHAEL TYRONE GRESHAM,

Appellant.

BRIEF OF AMICUS CURIAE, THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

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A. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

In the summer of 2007, Lamin Darboe stood trial for several counts of rape in the second degree in King County Superior Court. Mr. Darboe, a nursing assistant, was accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting a paralyzed, mute woman in his care who could only communicate through a keyboard. The jury was unable to reach a verdict and a mistrial was declared. Afterwards, the prosecutor informed the jurors that Mr. Darboe had been previously accused of other acts of sexual misconduct against women in his care. In a Seattle Post-Intelligencer article describing the trial, one juror expressed frustration that she had not heard that evidence, as it had been excluded under ER 404(b). See Appendix (Tracy Johnson, "Jury split on rape of stroke victim," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, accessed at www.seattlepi.com/local/322085_darboe03.htm on August 24, 2009).

The following winter, during the 2008 Washington Legislative Session, prosecutors sought to change the law to permit jurors to hear evidence of prior sexual misconduct, whether a conviction or a mere allegation, in sex offense prosecutions. The result was SSB 6933. Unlike ER 404(b), which requires that the state identify a purpose for introducing the prior misconduct, this statute would permit the prosecutors to

introduce prior acts of misconduct simply to show propensity. Furthermore, the statute would be limited to sex crime prosecutions.

Much like its model, Federal Rules of Evidence 413-415, SSB 6933 was met with controversy and vigorous opposition, and much of that opposition was reserved for the process by which the new rule was being made. Melanie McAlenan testified on behalf of the Board of Judicial Administration that "a matter of this type of substance should be properly before the Court Rulemaking Committee as opposed to the Legislature." See Testimony of Melanie McAlenan, Senate Judiciary Committee, 12:30 PM (accessed February 8, 2008, at www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2008020086&TYPE=A&CFI D=2283259 & CFTOKEN=10911899 & bhcp=1 on August 24, 2009). She further noted that Chief Justice Gerry Alexander had hoped to testify on behalf of BJA but was unable to appear because of a scheduling conflict. Finally, she stated that the Superior Court Judges' Association opposed the bill and the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association had signed in with concerns (and not in opposition) simply because they would not hear sex cases, but shared the other judges organizations' concerns about the rulemaking procedure. Defense attorney groups also opposed the bill on similar grounds and additionally pointed out that it would be "the kiss of death" for fairness in sex crime prosecutions. The bill passed, and is now codified at RCW 10.58.090.

Appellant Gresham challenges the constitutionality of RCW 10.58.090 and raises three claims: (1) the law violates the doctrine of separation of powers because it contravenes ER 404(b); (2) it runs afoul of the Ex Post Facto provision of the federal Constitution; (3) it contravenes the Ex Post Facto provision of the Washington constitution. The Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (WACDL) agrees with petitioner and supports his arguments that for those reasons, RCW 10.58.090 must be found unconstitutional.

In this amicus curiae brief, WACDL provides historical context on the ban on propensity evidence to support appellant's argument that RCW 10.58.090 directly conflicts with ER 404(b). RCW 10.58.090, by permitting the state to introduce additional acts of sexual misconduct without identifying a particular purpose for that evidence, overturns a rule that dates back to the Star Chamber.

In addition, this brief elaborates upon the historical differences between Washington's Ex Post Facto Clause and the federal Ex Post Facto Clause to support Mr. Gresham's conclusion that the Washington Constitution provides more protection than the United States Constitution.

Based on these arguments, as well as the Mr. Gresham's argument in his brief that the statute also violates the ban on retroactive legislation contained in the federal Constitution, this court should find RCW 10.58.090 unconstitutional, reverse Mr. Gresham's conviction, and remand for a new trial.

B. ARGUMENT

1. RCW 10.58.090 DIRECTLY CONFLICTS WITH THE BAN ON PROPENSITY EVIDENCE CODIFIED IN ER 404(B), THE CULMINATION OF THREE CENTURIES' WORTH OF ANGLO-AMERICAN JURISPRUDENCE BANNING THE INTRODUCTION OF PROPENSITY EVIDENCE, AND THUS VIOLATES THE DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION OF POWERS.

Hold, hold, what are you doing now? Are you going to arraign his whole life? How can he defend himself from charges of which he has no notice? And how many issues are to be raised to perplex me and the jury? Away, away! That ought not to be; that is nothing to the matter.

<u>Harrison's Trial</u>, 12 How. St. Tr. 833, 874 (1692), <u>cited in I</u> Wigmore § 194.

Courts have excluded propensity evidence in trials for over three centuries. Imwinkelried, <u>Uncharged Misconduct Evidence</u>, 2:25 (2008). The ban, which has its roots in Restoration England, ultimately resulted in Evidence Rule 404(b), which proscribes the introduction of the defendant's prior bad acts unless the proponent can tie the evidence to an enumerated purpose. RCW 10.58.090, by contrast, expressly permits the

introduction of misconduct evidence in a narrow class of criminal prosecutions for the sole purpose of showing propensity, and dispenses with the requirement that the proponent identify a specific use for the To demonstrate a violation of the separation of powers evidence. doctrine, Mr. Gresham must make two showings: first, he must establish that RCW 10.58.090 is a rule of procedure, and second, he must show that the statute directly conflicts with another court rule. Amicus submits that the history underlying the ban on misconduct evidence firmly establishes a stark and irreconcilable conflict between the statute and ER 404(b). Since the Star Chamber, courts have recognized the evils of misconduct evidence and banned it from juror consideration, unless the person offering the evidence can propose an independent theory to admit the evidence. RCW 10.58.090 places no such burden on the evidentiary WACDL urges this court to find RCW 10.58.090 proponent. unconstitutional and restore the propensity ban to the status it has held in Anglo-American jurisprudence for over four hundred years

a. The historical development of the propensity ban shows quick and wide acceptance of the notion that a defendant's trial should be limited to the instant charge.

The ban on propensity evidence was a reaction to the abuses of the Star Chamber in 16th century England. The Star Chamber, the English court of law during the 16th and 17th centuries, has a dim view among

historians. While initially conceived of as a court where prominent people (who could not otherwise expect to receive a fair trial) would have their cases heard, it became notorious for its secret proceedings, and lack of indictments, witnesses, and juries. The court was widely reviled in England.

The introduction of propensity evidence was among the affronts to the sense of fairness and justice that evaded the Star Chamber. That "routine" practice, according to a leading treatise on evidence, "reached its zenith during the era of the Star Chamber. The view was wholly in accord with the Chamber's inquisitorial philosophy and procedures." Imwinkelried, Uncharged Misconduct Evidence, 2:25 (2008).

The evidentiary rules governing misconduct were revised during the Restoration. <u>Id</u>. In 1695, Parliament passed the Treason Act, which provided that the defendant could be tried only for the crime with which he or she is charged. <u>Id</u>. This Act, according to Imwinkelried, "helped spur the emergence of the character rule, prohibiting the prosecution from attacking the defendant's character unless the defendant places character in issue." <u>Id</u>. This general rule officially became law in 1810 in <u>Rex v. Cole</u>, which held that character evidence could not be used as circumstantial proof of the defendant's conduct. <u>Id</u>.

American courts more or less paralleled the English courts in the development of the propensity ban. As Professor Julius Stone writes in a seminal article tracing the lineage of propensity case law in American courts, "[a]s there was in England, so in America there is a pervading belief among judges and text writers, which has scarcely been questioned since it arose about 1850, that in the beginning the law said: 'Let no similar facts be admitted,' and no similar facts were admitted." Julius Stone, "The Rule of Exclusion of Similar Fact Evidence: America," 51 Harv. L. Rev. 988, 989 (1938).

Courts have recognized the inherent unfairness of permitting introduction of misconduct evidence for centuries. RCW 10.58.090 violates that sense of fairness that firmly underlies this prohibition.

b. <u>History also bears out that if a court is to admit misconduct evidence, the proponent must specify a carefully-delineated use for the evidence.</u>

Additionally, a review on the development of 404(b) shows that the need to identify the specific relevance of the otherwise-inadmissible misconduct evidence has an equally long pedigree. Originally, the main theory for exclusion of propensity evidence was that it was irrelevant, which Professor Stone labels "the original narrow rule." <u>Id</u>. at 997 (citing State v. Odel, 3 Brevard 552 (S.C. 1816), <u>Keith v. Taylor</u>, 3 Vt. 153 (1830)). Admissibility depended upon whether the evidence was, in any

way, "relevant to a fact in issue otherwise than by merely showing propensity?" Stone, 51 Harv. L. Rev at 1004. As stated in Walker v. Commonwealth:

...there is no reason why the criminality of such intimate and connected circumstances should exclude them more than other facts apparently innocent...but if the circumstances have no intimate connection with the main fact; if they constitute no link in the chain of evidence; then, supposing them innocent, their admission, to be sure, may do no harm, yet they ought to be excluded, because they are irrelevant; but if they denote other guilt, they are not only irrelevant, but they do injury, because they have a tendency to prejudice the minds of the jury; for this additional reason they ought to be excluded.

I Leigh 574 (Va. 1829), cited in Stone, 51 Harv. L. Rev. at 997-98.

Professor Imwinkelried characterized the rule as a doctrine of <u>inclusion</u>: courts rejected misconduct evidence if it was offered to prove the defendant's character, but was to be admitted if the proponent could identity any other theory of logical relevance. Imwinkelried, <u>Uncharged</u> Misconduct Evidence 2:26.

Courts quickly recognized alternative theories of relevance for misconduct evidence. Professor Stone notes that by the middle of the nineteenth century, English courts were admitting prior bad acts to prove the defendant's knowledge in forgery and receiving stolen property cases, and American courts were following suit. <u>Id</u>. at 993.

By the late nineteenth century, although much confusion existed about whether the rule regarding propensity evidence was inclusionary or exclusionary—i.e., did the courts <u>include</u> the propensity evidence, so long as the proponent advanced a logical relevance theory other than character evidence, or did the courts <u>exclude</u> the evidence if it did not fit into one of the exceptions to the propensity ban?—one facet was clear: the proponent of the evidence had to identify a reason, other than propensity, to admit it. Some courts during this time relied upon the exclusionary rule and others relied upon the inclusionary rule. <u>Id</u>. at 1004-05.

By 1893, it was well-settled in English common law that the English courts followed the inclusionary, or original approach. The English courts, writes Professor Imwinkelried, "recognized a growing number of theories of independent relevance: intent in 1906, motive, in 1906, and identity in 1915," and referred to them as theories of logical relevance. Imwinkelried, <u>Uncharged Misconduct Evidence</u> 2:26.

Likewise, while the debate in American courts also focused on whether the evidence was inclusionary or exclusionary, the requirement that the proponent identify an independent purpose for the evidence was a given. The American courts initially followed the original narrow rule, but ultimately chose to adopt the exclusionary approach advocated by certain English jurists during the time when the direction of English case

law was unclear. <u>Id</u>. at 2:27. The oft-cited exceptions were listed in the seminal case of <u>People v. Molineux</u>, 168 N.Y. 264, 61 N.E. 286 (1901), where the court noted that the exceptions to the propensity rule "cannot be stated with categorical precision," but nonetheless listed the recognized exceptions: motive, intent, absence of mistake or accident, identity, and common scheme or plan. <u>Id</u>.

Despite the Molineux case, however, ultimately, it was the inclusionary approach which won out with the drafting of 404(b). The advent of Federal Rule of Evidence 404(b) firmly established the inclusionary/theory of logical relevance approach to propensity evidence as the prevailing view in American courts. <u>Id.</u> at 2:31.

Regardless of whether one adopts the exclusionary or inclusionary approach, both views always required that the proponent advance a theory behind the introduction of the evidence that did not simply fall under the general category of "propensity."

c. Washington, like its counterparts, has also historically required that the person introducing the misconduct evidence identify a theory of relevance.

The development of the propensity ban in Washington reveals no deviation from English and American common law. Washington was an adherent to the exclusionary approach, and like its counterparts, required that the person seeking to admit misconduct evidence identify its

relevancy. In 1896 (in what appears to be the earliest statement of this rule), in a prosecution for a worthless check, the Washington Supreme Court held that it was error to admit evidence that the defendant had previously drawn bad checks on that account: "[w]e are, of course, aware that there are exceptions to the general rule that it is not competent to show the commission of another distinct crime by the defendant for the purpose of proving that he is guilty of the crime charged." State v. Bokien, 14 Wash. 403, 414, 44 P. 889 (1896). By 1918, the court had recognized intent, motive, and knowledge as permissible exceptions to the ban on propensity evidence. See State v. Smith, 103 Wash. 267, 174 P. 9 (1918). In 1939, the court added common scheme or plan and absence of mistake to the list. See State v. Barton, 198 Wash. 268, 88 P.2d 385 (1939).

With the adoption of the Federal Rules of Evidence in Washington on April 2, 1979, ER 404(b) codified the common law on propensity evidence, firmly establishing the ban on using evidence of other crimes to prove character, but permitting that evidence to be introduced for other purposes enumerated in the rule. See Tegland, Washington Practice Series: Evidence Law and Practice, § 404.1 (2008).

d. The long, well-established history of the ban on propensity evidence is proof that RCW 10.58.090, which regulates matters of court procedure, cannot be

harmonized with ER 404(b), a validly-promulgated court rule, and must be declared unconstitutional.

As recently as September 17, 2009, the Washington Supreme Court has affirmed that laws that regulate court procedural matters violate the doctrine of separation of powers. "When the activity of one branch of government invades the prerogatives of another, there is a violation of the doctrine of separation of powers." Putnam v. Wenatchee Valley Medical Center, __ Wn.2d __, 2009 WL 2960977, *11 (slip op., September 17, 2009). There, the court agreed with petitioner's argument that a law which changed the medical malpractice pleading requirements "encroach[ed] on the judiciary's power to set court rules." Id. at *3. In describing the application of the separation of powers doctrine, the court explained:

Some fundamental functions are within the inherent power of the judicial branch, including the power to promulgate rules for its practice. If a statute appears to conflict with a court rule, this court will first attempt to harmonize them and give effect to both, but if they cannot be harmonized, the court rule will prevail in procedural matters.

<u>Id</u>. at * 4 (internal citations omitted).

Here, the Board of Judicial Administration argued before the Legislature that this matter is properly before the Court Rules Committee, and for good reason. As Mr. Gresham argues persuasively in his brief, rules of evidence are procedural, not substantive, matters. See Brief of Appellant,

pp.15ff. Because this statute pertains to court procedure—regulation of the admission of evidence—this court must then determine if (1) there is a conflict and (2) whether the conflict can be reconciled. recitation of the history of the propensity ban establishes that RCW 10.58.090 is at loggerheads with ER 404(b). This statute sweeps away three centuries' worth of case holdings and court rules that prohibit the introduction of prior misconduct evidence without advancing a theory for its admissibility. RCW 10.58.090 stands in direct opposition to ER 404(b), and as such, can never be reconciled: both provisions represent fundamentally different views about whether juries may consider misconduct evidence for the sole purpose of propensity. It does precisely what courts since common law England have expressly prohibited: it allows introduction of propensity evidence to prove that the defendant acted consistently with his or her character. This procedural statute cannot be harmonized with ER 404(b), and must be struck down as unconstitutional.

2. A REVIEW OF THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF WASHINGTON'S EX POST FACTO CLAUSE COMPELS ONE CONCLUSION: IT IS MORE PROTECTIVE THAN ITS FEDERAL COUNTERPART.

Article I, Section 10 of the United States Constitution provides in pertinent part: "No State shall...pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the obligation of Contracts,...". In <u>Calder v. Bull</u>, 3

U.S. 386 (1798) the United States Supreme Court listed four categories of ex post facto laws, of which the fourth was "(e)very law that alters the legal rules of evidence and receives less, or different, testimony that the law required at the time of the commission of the offense, in order to convict the offender." Current Supreme Court jurisprudence limits that category to those cases which alter the elements of the crime or the nature of the proof necessary to obtain a conviction. Carmell v. Texas, 529 U.S. 513, 120 S.Ct. 1620, 146 L.Ed.2d 577 (1999).

One of the issues this court must resolve, vis-à-vis a <u>Gunwall</u> analysis, is how broadly to construe the fourth <u>Calder</u> category. Must this court only examine whether RCW 10.58.090 changes the criminal elements the state needs to prove or what evidence the state must offer to prevail on a charge, or can this court go further and consider whether any law that alters the rules of evidence, to the exclusive benefit of the prosecution, runs afoul of this prohibition? The historical development of Washington's Ex Post Facto Clause, coupled with Oregon case law that interpreted its identical Clause to provide this broader protection, commands this court hold that Washington's Ex Post Facto Clause provides broader protection than the Supreme Court's current interpretation of its federal counterpart.

a. Washington's adoption of stronger language in its Ex Post Facto Clause, despite the availability of less emphatic language in the federal Clause, reveals an intent to provide more protection to the citizens of Washington.

In 1889, the framers of the Washington Constitution adopted the following language in banning the passage of retroactive laws: "[n]o bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligations of contracts shall ever be passed." Wash. Const. Art. I, Sec. 23. By contrast, Article I, Section 10 of the United States Constitution states in pertinent part: "No State shall...pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the obligation of Contracts,...". The language of the federal Constitution was available to the drafters, but rather than rely on the language of the United States Constitution, the framers instead chose to adopt different language of stronger emphasis. The Washington Constitution drafters added the word "ever" to the prohibition on the passage of such laws, conveying particular emphasis on this clause to the Legislature. The drafters' disregard of the language of the federal Constitution evinces an intent to provide greater protection to Washington citizens.

b. Because Washington's Clause was modeled after Oregon's Clause, this court should follow Oregon case law that interprets its Ex Post Facto Clause to prohibit passage of laws that alter the rules of evidence in a way that favors one party.

Washington's clause was primarily modeled after W. Lair Hill's draft constitution and the Oregon Constitution. R. Utter and H. Spitzer, The Washington State Constitution: A Reference Guide, 9 (2002). The Oregon supreme court has recently considered the scope of its ex post facto prohibition related to the fourth Calder category. Oregon's Ex Post Facto Clause states that "[n]o ex-post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts shall ever be passed,...". Ore. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 21. In State v. Fugate, the Oregon supreme court addressed an evidence law that provided that a court could not suppress evidence obtained in violation of a statute unless suppression was otherwise required under the U.S. Constitution or the Oregon State Constitution. 332 Or. 195, 26 P.3d 802 (2001). The acknowledged purpose of the Oregon law was to make criminal convictions easier. Fugate, 332 Or. at 214-215.

The state argued that under <u>Carmell v. Texas</u>, <u>supra</u>, the fourth <u>Calder</u> category was understood to reach only those laws that "allow a defendant to be convicted 'on less, or different, testimony." <u>Id.</u>, 529 U.S. at 530. Rejecting this narrow read of <u>Calder</u>, the court first pointed out that the Oregon provision was modeled after the Indiana Constitution, whose courts as early as 1822 had taken a more expansive view of the

¹ The Oregon Supreme Court pointed out that while no historical records of the framers' intent existed, their Ex Post Facto Clause appeared to have been derived from Article 1, Section 24 of the Indiana Constitution of 1851, which in turn derived from Article I,

fourth <u>Calder category</u>. <u>Fugate</u>, 332 Or. at 211. In <u>Strong v. The State</u>, an Indiana Supreme Court case considering whether a change in punishment contravened the ban on ex post facto laws, provided the following interpretation of its clause:

The words ex post facto have a definite, technical signification. The plain and obvious meaning of this prohibition is, that the Legislature shall not pass any law, after a fact done by any citizen, which shall have relation to that fact, so as to punish that which was innocent when done; or to add to the punishment of that which was criminal; or to increase the malignity of a crime; or to retrench the rules of evidence, so as to make conviction more easy.

1 Blackf. 193, 196 (1822). Unlike the language of <u>Calder</u> as interpreted in <u>Carmell, Strong</u> prohibited laws that altered the rules of evidence <u>to the exclusive benefit of the prosecution</u>. This expansion of the ex post facto ban was not lost upon the Oregon Supreme Court in interpreting the scope of its Ex Post Facto Clause:

Whatever the merits of <u>Carmell</u> as a definitive statement of the scope of the fourth category under the federal ex post facto clause today, <u>Carmell</u> is not correct insofar as the Oregon ex post facto clause is concerned. Both <u>Strong</u> and <u>Calder</u> clearly stated that the fourth category forbade as a general rule a change in the rules of evidence that favored only the prosecution. Thus, in <u>Strong</u> the court restated the fourth category as a question: "Does it change the rules of evidence as to make conviction more easy?" 1 Blackf. at 197. Similarly, in <u>Calder</u>, Justice Chase restated the fourth

Section 18 of the Indiana Constitution of 1816. 332 Or. at 211. The Strong case, discussed above, interprets the 1816 clause.

category of ex post facto laws as including those that "change the rules of evidence, for the purpose of conviction." 3 U.S. (3 Dall) at 391. Those statements were in the minds of the framers when they enacted Article I, section 21. Under their understanding, all four categories identified in <u>Calder</u> are applicable in applying Article I, section 21.

<u>Fugate</u>, 332 Or. at 213-14. In rejecting <u>Carmell</u> and following <u>Calder</u> and <u>Strong</u>, the Oregon court found that the statute violated the ex post facto provision of the Oregon State Constitution because it operated retroactively, and to the exclusive benefit of the prosecution.

This court should similarly interpret Washington's Ex Post Facto Clause under the <u>Calder/Strong</u> line of cases, which provide broader protections for Washington citizens. Under this more expansive view of the fourth <u>Calder</u> category, it is beyond question that RCW 10.58.090 operates to the exclusive benefit of the prosecution. The bill was passed in reaction to a sex offense prosecution in which the state was unable to obtain a conviction, and sought to introduce prior bad acts to make criminal convictions easier. The law directs judges to consider the strength of the state's case in determining whether to admit the evidence. Accordingly, this court should find RCW 10.58.090 unconstitutional under the Washington Constitution because it violates prohibition on retroactive laws.

C. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

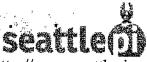
Amicus curiae urges this court to rule that RCW 10.58.090 is unconstitutional because it violates the separation of powers doctrine and because, under the greater protections of the Washington Constitution, it violates the Ex Post Facto Clause. Although not addressed in this brief, Amicus also agrees that the statute runs afoul of the federal Ex Post Facto Clause. Accordingly, this court should reverse Mr. Gresham's conviction and remand for a new trial.

DATED this 57 day of October, 2009.

RHODES & MERYHEW

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Attorney for Amious Curiae, Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers APPENDIX



http://www.seattlepi.com/local/322085_darboe03.html

Jury split on rape of stroke victim

Nursing assistant case a mistrial

Last updated July 2, 2007 9:23 p.m. PT

By TRACY JOHNSON

P-I REPORTER

A King County jury could not agree Monday on whether a Seattle nursing assistant raped a mute and paralyzed stroke victim last year, leading to a mistrial.

Prosecutors must now decide whether to retry Lamin Darboe, a 40-year-old man who has been accused -- but never convicted -- of rape and other sexual misconduct several other times in recent years.

Jury forewoman Stephanie Muth said jurors were split roughly 8-4 on three of the second-degree rape charges, with most leaning toward a guilty verdict. However, they voted 11-1 to find him not guilty of a fourth charge.

She said some jurors were troubled by inconsistencies in statements made by the alleged victim, a woman who cannot speak and gave her emotional testimony last week in writing.

"I thought that the victim's testimony was quite consistent, given her inability to communicate," said Muth, who said she voted to convict Darboe on all counts.

But other jurors didn't think there was enough evidence. At least one juror who voted to acquit Darboe was upset to learn afterward that it wasn't the first time he'd been accused.

"I didn't make the wrong decision based on the evidence, but it does hurt me to know that he has victimized before," said the juror, Linda, who declined to give her last name.

She said it also bothered her to see a smile spread across Darboe's face when Superior Court Judge Greg Canova declared a mistrial.

Darboe is accused of repeatedly raping and sexually abusing the patient at Kindred Hospital, a Northgatearea long-term care facility, in late June and early July of last year.

Prosecutors say the woman, then 31, was unable to resist or call for help. At the time, the mother of four could communicate only by moving her head. The allegations came to light when her friend asked her about Darboe and she began crying.

Darboe's attorney, Gene Piculell, said the woman has given conflicting accounts of what happened. He said the jurors were "obviously reasonable individuals, and they saw significant problems with the evidence."

The jury was troubled that the woman reported that a nurse interrupted one attack, yet that nurse was never found. Muth said.

Prosecutors plan to review the case and decide whether to bring a second trial against Darboe, said Deputy Prosecutor Lisa Johnson, who leads her office's Special Assault Unit.

"We certainly respect the jury's decision," she said. "It's disappointing that they didn't conclude, but we understand these cases are difficult."

In recent years, Darboe also was accused of sexually harassing two patients at Swedish Medical Center and sexually touching one.

Outside the hospital setting, he has been accused of raping two other women, although Snohomish County prosecutors didn't pursue charges in one case after Darboe said it was consensual. A jury acquitted him in the other case.

Darboe remains in King County Jail on \$250,000 bail.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the day of October, 2009, a true and correct copy of the foregoing BRIEF OF AMICUS CURIAE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS was served upon the following individuals by depositing same in the United States Mail, first class, postage prepaid:

Kathleen Webber Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office 3000 Rockfeller Avenue, MS-504 Everett, WA 98201

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Danica M. Wettland